Sl. No.	Name of the applicant
181.	Hari Shankar Singhania Electromer & Tyre Research Institute, Rajasthan
182.	Institute of Marwari Entrepreneurship, Jaipur
183.	Manishi Herbal Research Foundation, Trivandrum
184.	Birla Research Institute for Applied Sciences, Distt. Birla Gram
185.	Inter University Consortium for Department of Atomic Energy Facilities, Indore
186.	Aparna Trust, Madhuban, Karnal
187.	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development Chandigarh 2004-07
188.	Dalmia Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research, Sambalpur
189.	M/s Baba Jaswant Singh Trust, Ludhiana

Restructuring of loans to farmers

2245. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure/waive-off agricultural loan provided to farmers and to reduce the interest rate of agricultural loans to farmers in the wake of flood/drought conditions prevailing in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Taxation of LIC maturity

†2246. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to impose tax on P.P.F, L.I.C., on their maturity after reconsidering the existing provision of giving relaxation in income tax to the taxpayers on these policies;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that investment is likely to be adversely affected as the taxpayers would not make investment due to the changes in tax system; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, 2005-06 has announced the decision of the Government to adopt an Exempt Exempt Tax (EET) method of taxation of savings in accordance with the best international practice. In order to resolve a number of administrative issues, a Committee of Experts has been set up to work out the roadmap for moving towards an EET method of taxation of saving instruments. The Committee is likely to submit its report by 31.10.2005.

Interest rate of PPF deposits

2247. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interest rate on PPF deposits for the year 2002-03 onwards has been decided;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not deciding the date before the commencement of the relevant financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The applicable rate of interest on deposits under the Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme was fixed at 9 per cent per annum with effect from 1.3.2002. The rate was revised to 8 per cent per annum with effect from 1.3.2003 and continues unchanged since then. The applicable rates were notified in the Gazette of India on the same dates.

(c) Question does not arise.

Revamping of stamp paper procurement system

2248. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have comprehensively revamped stamp paper procurement system by institutionalizing a number of security features;